(c) The proposals are examined with reference to their technical feasibility, economic viability and other parameters and those proposals meeting the criteria are provided financial assistance.

Promoting FPIs in villages

†1393. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to formulate any special scheme to promote food processing industries in order to raise living standards of villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry is operating six Plan Schemes during the Tenth Plan period with a total approved outlay of Rs. 650 crores for the development of food processing industries.

It is expected that development of this sector would result in reduction of wastages, increase in processing level, assured remuneration to growers and better access to market etc. These will contribute to raising the living standards of farmers.

(c) Does not arise.

Banana based drink

1394. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3788 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of developing the technology for production of banana based carbonated drink including the month and year of this break-through; and

(b) the steps taken to promote commercial production of this soft drink?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The technology for banana-based Carbonated Ready-to-Serve (RTS) drinks was developed during September, 2002. The process involves mixing of enzyme clarified banana juice with water, acid and sugar in appropriate combination. Then the drink is pasteurized, aerated with carbon dioxide, bottled and crown corked on a carbonating machine.

(b) The total technology for carbonated and non-carbonated banana-based-beverages is ready for transfer to anyone interested in starting the business.

FPIs in Tripura

1395. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of food processing industries have been sent to the Central Government by Tripura Government during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, so far;

(b) for how many of these cases money has been sanctioned and disbursed and for how many cases sanction is due and money is not released; and

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning money and releasing funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) While 7 proposals from different organisations such as Public Sector Undertakings, Non-Governmental Organisations, Private Industries etc. from Tripura have been received, no proposal from Government of Tripura for food processing industries in the State has been received during 2002-03 and till date.

(b) Out of the these, 3 proposals have been approved and financial assistance released in two cases.

(c) The proposals are examined with reference to their technical feasibility, economic viability and other parameters. Proposals meeting such criteria are provided financial assistance. Since the proposals are examined as per procedure, any delay is due to non-fulfilment of requirements.